

The Jeremiah Buck House
297 East Commerce Street
Bridgeton, Cumberland County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-530

HABS

N.J.

6-BRIG

5-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

HABS
N.J.
6-BRIS
5-

The Jeremiah Buck House
297 East Commerce Street
Bridgeton, Cumberland County, New Jersey

Owner: Mr. L. Albertson Huber (same address)

Date of Erection: 1808 and earlier

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Jeremiah Buck and Dr. William Elmer

Present Condition: Original, well maintained

Number of Stories: Two and one-half, and cellar

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - brick

Interior walls - plaster
on brick party walls or
on lath on wood studding
partitions

Chimneys - brick, built
into inside of gable end
walls

Roof - modern asbestos
shingled gable with top
deck tin covered on main
unit; slate roofed gables
on rear wing; tin roof on
two porches, shed, and
modern addition in northeast
corner

Historical Data:

We are informed by Miss Nancy P. Elmer of Walnut Street, Bridgeton, that she was born in this house, a daughter of Jonathan Elmer, granddaughter of Dr. William Elmer; that the last named acquired

it from Jeremiah Buck at the time he went into bankruptcy when he built it in 1808. Record of such conveyance does not appear, but the succeeding title is found as follows:

William Elmer, of Bridgeton, abovenamed, by his will of May 1836, devised to "my son, Jonathan Elmer, my Grist Mill Woolen Factory, the house in which I now live, together with all the houses and lands which I possess, adjoining said mill property".

Charles R. Elmer and Jonathan Elmer Jr. executors of the Will of Jonathan Elmer, Sr., of Bridgeton dated 9 January 1886, conveyed this property to Nancy P. Elmer of the same place for \$4500. by their deed of 2 May 1894, describing it as lying on the north side of Commerce Street, and bounded east by property of F. R. Fithian, "with all the buildings," etc.

By a deed of 16 July in the same year, this grantee conveyed the property to Jeannette T. Elmer of the same place, who with Charles R. Elmer passed it by their deed of 14 May 1900 to Daniel W. Pedrick of Philadelphia. The last named, with wife Mary F. Pedrick, passed it to Missouri H. Bowen of Bridgeton, on 5 June following, who with husband Thomas H. Bowen gave deed for the same to Pearl M. Muta of the same place, dated 13 October, 1919, and she passed it on that date to the Cumberland Trust Company of Bridgeton, in trust for Gertrude Albertson Huber. The last named, in her will of 3 August 1937, devised the property No. 297 E. Commerce Street, to her son, Levi Albertson Huber, and he is the present owner and occupant of the house, 1940.

Architectural Analysis:

Examination of the fabric of this imposing mansion shows its erection in four separate operations. The earliest unit was incorporated as a service wing when the main house was erected between

it and the street in 1808 by Jeremiah Buck. Having passed into possession of Dr. William Elmer, in the same year as stated above, the latter became the first occupant of the new house. From the identity of details and materials, it is evident that he at once added the extension at the east end, providing a desirable office for his medical practice and having its private entrance. The facade thus lengthened resulted in the excellent symmetry of five bays, but the east gable end was much less successful. The increased height of story, size of windows, and the generous use of reeding and fluting in the interior woodwork, all testify to the main house's origin in the fashion of the early 19th century. The black marble mantel in the parlor is obviously a feature installed later, circa 1830, and the front portico of four doric fluted columns are clearly an addition in the Greek Revival period of 1840. The fourth and latest unit comprised the addition in the northeast angle formed by the extension made for Dr. William Elmer's office.

Bibliography:

A search of title in Land and Probate records of Cumberland County by O. F. Benjamin, H.A.B.S. abstractor

Louis D. Cook
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer